HN Business Network Event Notes 04/03/21

TH welcomed everyone, introduced the speakers, and ran through the Agenda.

TH referred to and discussed in detail the HN Business guidance for internally assessed qualifications which was developed in September 2020. Further guidance was updated in February 2021 that centres could return to an updated assessment decision tree if needed. The Decision Tree will support centres in determining the appropriate route for assessment of the Group Award, using evidence based professional judgement. This includes assessing evidence against the Group Award Aims. There are no specific critical competences identified for HNC/D Business therefore there is no “Alternative Assessment Template” as referenced in the Decision Tree.

TH mentioned it was agreed between centres and SQA that centres would not be required to deliver Graded Units in the way centres would usually deliver them. TH highlighted centres should continue with the Old Economic Issues: : An introduction F7J8 34 unit if an open-book assessment is desired. Where this option is taken, centres may adapt Outcomes 1 and 2 to open-book conditions.

Where assessment is adapted from closed-book to open-book conditions, error tolerances must also be adapted for Business Accounting F94M 34 and Preparing Financial Forecasts F94R 35.

Please see links for Published SQA guidance:

* [SQA guidance for internally assessed qualifications in 2020-21](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96759.html)
* [HNC/D Business subject-specific guidance 2020-21](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/hn-business-internal-assessment-guidance-2020-21.pdf)

The speakers highlighted the positives and negatives of remote learning. Both speakers and delegates discussed the challenges in delivering via a fully online model including motivational problems for learners and difficulties for teaching staff in engaging with them. It was acknowledged, however, that digital has an important role to play in the future but there should be a balance between remote and physical learning environments..

**Changes to Mandatory Structure of the HNC Qualification Structure**

Consultation and feedback expressed a desire for greater flexibility in the qualification structures by reducing the size of the mandatory section to allow a greater choice of options. The following proposed mandatory structure was agreed at by the QRT taking into account all priorities as defined by the aims of the review and the qualifications. The mandatory section of the HNC remains 10 credits due to size constraints and the need to modernise the qualification by introducing new content, however assessment volume has been reduced.

The current HNC Business G9ML 15 will enter lapsing period in August 2021 and end on 31 July 2023. Centres can enter and result learners up until the end date.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HNC 2010-2021** | **HNC 2021** |
| **Current Unit** | **Change** |
| Managing People and Organisations F84T 34 | Managing People and Organisations J4DL 34 |
| Economic Issues: An Introduction F7J8 34 | Economic Issues: An Introduction J462 34 |
| Business Accounting F84M 34\* | Accounting for Business: An Introduction (code tbc) |
| IT in Business: Spreadsheets HH83 34\*  IT Applications Software 1 D75X 34\* | Business Fundamentals with Emerging Technologies (code tbc) |
| Marketing: An Introduction F7BX 34 | No change |
| Communication: Business Communication H7TK 34 | No change |
| Business: Graded Unit 1 F8LD 34 | Business: Graded Unit 1 (code tbc) |
| **Mandatory Credits: 10** | **Mandatory Credits: 10** |

\*Unit no longer mandatory but continues as an option

### Changes to the HND year 2 mandatory section

Consultation and feedback expressed a desire for greater flexibility in the qualification structures by reducing the size of the mandatory section to allow a greater choice of options.

The mandatory section of the HND has been reduced from 23 to 20 credits (10 year 1 +10 year 2). Where delivering an HND programme, centres may choose to deliver HND mandatory units in year 1 to integrate teaching and assessment (eg *Business Fundamentals and Emergent Technologies* and *Business Law: An Introduction*) or for other reasons that may be beneficial. HND year 2 mandatory units are included in the HNC as options, so if a learner were to decide not to progress to HND year 2 they could still exit with an HNC Award. Assessment volume has also been significantly reduced.

The current HND Business G9MM 16 will enter lapse period in August 2021 and end on 31 July 2025. Centres can enter and result learners up until the end date.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HND year 2 2010-2021** | **HND year 2 2021** |
| **Current Unit** | **Change** |
| Economics 1: Micro and Macro Theory and Application F7J6 35 | Economics: Micro and Macro Theory and Application (code tbc) |
| Economics 2: The World Economy F86E 35 | Economics: The World Economy (code tbc) |
| Preparing Financial Forecasts F84R 35 | Preparing Financial Forecasts (code tbc) |
| Business Law: An Introduction F84P 34 | Business Law: An Introduction (code tbc) |
| ICT in Business HH87 35\* | Project Management: Strategy, Decision-making and Risk (code tbc) |
| Business Culture and Strategy F7J7 35 | Managing Business Culture and Strategy (code tbc)  No replacement |
| Behavioural Skills for Business J1BW 35\* |
| Statistics for Business F84K 35\*+ | No replacement |
| Business Contractual Relationships F84N 35\* | No replacement |
| Business: Graded Unit 2 F8LE 35 | Business: Graded Unit 2 (tbc) |
| **Mandatory Credits: 23** | **Mandatory Credits: 20** |

\*Unit no longer mandatory but continues as an option

+Unit revised by Mathematics cognate group. New code J45X 34